

MAR 1952 51-4C

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SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

CD NO. --

COUNTRY	Austria	DATE OF INFORMATION	1952
SUBJECT	Political - Communist press		
HOW PUBLISHED	Daily newspaper	DATE DIST.	27 Feb 1953
WHERE PUBLISHED	Vienna	NO. OF PAGES	2
DATE PUBLISHED	30 Dec 1952		
LANGUAGE	German	SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.	

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SOURCE Die Presse.

VIENNA PAPER CATCHES AUSTRIAN COMMUNIST PARTY ORGAN IN FAUX PAS

According to the Vienna newspaper Die Presse of 30 December 1952, the Oesterreichische Volksstimme, organ of the Austrian Communist Party, recently published a letter from alleged shop stewards in Florence Italy, protesting De Gasperi's blocking of passports. Die Presse reported that the letter, signed by Mrs Berta Verrina, nee Kratochwil, among others, stated in clumsy German: "The Americans incited our government to block all passports between 12 and 18 December 1952 so that no one can get to the Peace Council meeting in Vienna." The name Verrina immediately attracts attention, Die Presse continued, and the signatures of the other shop stewards arouse even more suspicion: Giuseppe Verrina, Cornelio Calva, Michele Cibo, Giulia Imperiali, Tommaso Ascerato, Francesco Centurione, Raffaele Sacco, and Vincente Calcagno. These names, the paper stated, are all copied from the list of characters in Schiller's "Die Verschwoerung des Fiesco zu Genua" (The Conspiracy of Fiesco in Genoa). This play, written by Friedrich Schiller in 1782, is his first historical and political tragedy. It describes the Genoese ideal of a republican democracy, which, however, fails because Fiesco, after a successful revolution against the patriarchal lords of Genoa, breaks the pledges he has given to his supporters and turns out to be an even worse tyrant. It categorically opposes absolutism.⁷

Die Presse went on making fun of the Volksstimme by saying that the name of the firm to which the shop stewards are supposed to belong clearly shows that this is an anti-Communist and capitalistic conspiracy of reactionary literary connoisseurs. Die Presse explained: It is called "Tunder und d'Oria," which sounds more like the German expression, "Donner und Doria" [meaning something like "darn"] than Italian or Florentine. As the last straw, the word "Spinnerei" [which literally means spinning mill, but also can mean a fabrication] was added to the name of the firm, and the address is given as Via San Giuseppe 28, which could be an allusion to the publishing date of the Volksstimme (28 December) which carried the letter from Mrs Kratochwil.

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According to Die Presse the comments of the Volksstimme on Signora Berta Verrina's letter are also apropos. A politically progressive commentator, Die Presse continued, states that Comrade Verrina-Kratochwil, an Austrian by birth, is carrying on the fight for peace in her new homeland and staying true to the progressive movement. In conclusion, Die Presse noted that, since Mrs Kratochwil has turned out to be the biggest hoax of 1952, she probably will join the ranks of the inciters of war who are paid by capitalistic imperialists.

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